

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Previously presented) A multifunctional food preparation apparatus for the preparation of food products, comprising:

a preparation chamber having a top and a bottom;

at least one rack within the preparation chamber to support products to be prepared in the apparatus;

a main heat source positioned adjacent the top of the preparation chamber;

a collection pan within the cooking chamber and positioned below the at least one rack, said collection pan disposed so as to collect by-products rendered from the food products during preparation;

a steam source positioned below the collection pan;

a flavor generator positioned adjacent the bottom of the preparation chamber below the at least one rack;

at least one air flow path within the preparation chamber to allow for the circulation of air around the at least one rack; and

a programmable controller to control the heat source, the steam source and the flavor generator, the controller being programmable to operate any one of the heat source, the steam source and the flavor generator in any predetermined sequence, and

for any predetermined duration of time to provide optimum preparation and flavoring of the products.

2. (Previously presented) The multifunctional food preparation apparatus of claim 1 further comprising an external flue in fluid communication with the preparation chamber, said flue being appropriately dimensioned so as to maintain a predetermined pressure within the preparation chamber.

3. (Previously presented) The multifunctional food preparation apparatus of claim 2 wherein the flue further comprises a tubular body defining an internal bore, said tubular body having a first end in fluid communication with the preparation chamber and a second end defining an opening into the atmosphere, the internal bore and said opening in said second end of the tubular body each having a predetermined internal diameter that combine to maintain the predetermined pressure within the preparation chamber.

4. (Previously presented) The multifunctional food preparation apparatus of claim 3 wherein the internal diameter of the internal bore is approximately 2 inches and the internal diameter of the opening in the second end of the tubular body is approximately  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch.

5. (Previously presented) The multifunctional food preparation apparatus of claim 4 wherein the preparation chamber has a volume of between approximately 14 cubic feet and approximately 18 cubic feet.

6. (Previously presented) The multifunctional food preparation apparatus of claim 1 wherein the at least one air flow path is positioned so as to direct heated air below the collection pan to maintain the collection pan at a sufficient temperature to retard spoilage of the by-products collected in the collection pan.

7. (Previously presented) The multifunctional food preparation apparatus of claim 1 wherein the at least one airflow path is positioned so as to direct airflow to the flavor generator.

8. (Previously presented) The multifunctional food preparation apparatus of claim 1 wherein the steam source further comprises a reservoir and a heat source.

9. (Previously presented) The multifunctional food preparation apparatus of claim 8 wherein the steam source heat source is an electric heating element.

10. (Previously presented) The multifunctional food preparation apparatus of claim 8 wherein the steam source further comprises a shield positioned over the reservoir.

Application No. 10/802,599  
Amendment dated October 30, 2007  
Reply to Office action dated October 12, 2007

11. (Previously presented) The multifunctional food preparation apparatus of claim 1 wherein the flavor generator further comprises a flavoring receptacle and a heat source.

12. (Previously presented) The multifunctional food preparation apparatus of claim 11 wherein the flavor generator heat source further comprises an electric heating element.

13. (Previously presented) The multifunctional food preparation apparatus of claim 1 wherein the main heat source further comprises an electric heating element and a fan.

14. - 53. Canceled.